

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 126, 130, 132-138, 141, 145-146, 150, 152-158, 161, 165-166, 170, 172-178, 181, 185-186, 190, 192-198, 201, 205-212, 224-230, 242-248 and 260-266. Further please amend claims 220, 221, 238, 239, 256, 257, 274 and 275 as shown in the following list of pending claims for the present application.

1-212. (Cancelled)

213. (Previously Presented) A method of communicating data comprising:

transmitting a first signal from a communication controller to at least one network node including a first node, the first signal including information relating to at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit a first request signal to the communication controller;

receiving the first request signal transmitted from the first node to the communication controller in response to the first signal, said first request signal including a request to transmit a second request signal for transmitting data from the first node to the communication controller;

transmitting a second signal from the communication controller to the first node in response to the first request signal, said second signal allocating at least one timeslot to the first node for transmitting a second request signal for transmitting the data from the first node to the communication controller;

receiving the second request signal transmitted from the first node to the communication controller in response to the second signal;

transmitting a third signal from the communication controller to the first node in response to the second request signal, said third signal allocating at least one timeslot to the first node for transmitting the data to the communication controller; and

receiving the data transmitted from the first node to the communication controller in response to the third signal.

214. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 213, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit as identified by the first signal can be assigned to another one of the nodes in the network so that the first request signal transmitted from the first node may be in contention for the at least one timeslot with another one of the nodes.

215. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 214, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit as identified by the second signal is assigned exclusively to the first node by the communication controller.

216. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 213, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit the first request signal is at least one of a series of timeslots provided on a common channel where the network nodes can transmit random access requests, the series of timeslots occurring repeatedly after transmission of

the first signal from the communication controller and continuing without being disabled during operation of the communication controller.

217. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 216, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit the second request signal is at least one of a series of timeslots provided on a dedicated channel where the network nodes transmit requests in exclusively assigned timeslots, the series of timeslots occurring repeatedly after transmission of the second signal from the communication controller and continuing without being disabled during operation of the communication controller.

218. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 213, wherein the second request signal requests allocation of time for transmitting a specified amount of data from the first node to the communication controller.

219. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 213, wherein the first signal includes information relating to a specific timeslot in which the first node may transmit a first request signal to the communication controller.

220. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 213, wherein the communication controller transmits to the first node information related to a frequency the first node is assigned to transmit the second request signal to the communication controller.

221. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~220~~ 213, wherein the communication controller transmits to the first node information related to a channel within the frequency that the first node is assigned to transmit ~~the second request signal~~.

222. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 213, wherein at least one of the nodes includes a pressure sensitive writing pad for entering the data into the node.

223. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 213, wherein at least one of the nodes includes an alphanumeric graphic display for displaying the data as entered into the node.

224-230. (Cancelled)

231. (Previously Presented) A communication controller in a data network, the data network including a plurality of nodes, the communication controller comprising:

a processor;

a memory; and

at least one interface for communicating with the plurality of nodes,

wherein the memory stores code to cause the processor to provide a first signal for transmission through the interface to at least a first one network node including the first node, the first signal including information relating to at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit a first request signal to the communication controller,

wherein the interface is configured to receive a first request signal from the first node in response to the first signal, said first request signal including a request to

transmit a second request signal for transmitting data from the first node to the communication controller,

wherein the memory stores code to cause the processor to provide a second signal for transmission through the interface to the first node in response to the first request signal, said second signal allocating at least one timeslot to the first node for transmitting a second request signal for transmitting the data from the first node to the communication controller;

wherein the interface is configured to receive the second request signal from the first node in response to the second signal;

wherein the memory stores code to cause the processor to provide a transmit a third signal through the interface to the first node in response to the second request signal, said third signal allocating at least one timeslot to the first node for transmitting the data to the communication controller; and

wherein the interface is configured to receive the data transmitted from the first node in response to the third signal.

232. (Previously Presented) The communication controller of claim 231, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit as identified by the first signal can be assigned to another one of the nodes in the network so that the first request signal transmitted from the first node may be in contention for the at least one timeslot with another one of the nodes.

233. (Previously Presented) The communication controller of claim 232, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit as identified by the second signal is assigned exclusively to the first node by the communication controller.

234. (Previously Presented) The communication controller of claim 231, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit the first request signal is one of a series of timeslots provided on a common channel where the network nodes can transmit random access requests, the series of timeslots occurring repeatedly after transmission of the first signal from the communication controller and continuing without being disabled during operation of the communication controller.

235. (Previously Presented) The communication controller of claim 234, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit the second request signal is at least one of a series of timeslots provided on a dedicated channel where the network nodes transmit requests in exclusively assigned timeslots, the series of timeslots occurring repeatedly after transmission of the second signal from the communication controller and continuing without being disabled during operation of the communication controller.

236. (Previously Presented) The communication controller of claim 231, wherein the second request signal requests allocation of time for transmitting a specified amount of data from the first node to the communication controller.

237. (Previously Presented) The communication controller of claim 231, wherein the first signal includes information relating to a specific timeslot in which the first node may transmit a first request signal to the communication controller.

238. (Currently Amended) The communication controller of claim 231, wherein the communication controller transmits to the first node information related to a frequency the first node is assigned to transmit ~~the second request signal to the communication~~ controller.

239. (Currently Amended) The communication controller of claim ~~238~~ 231, wherein the communication controller transmits to the first node information related to a channel within the frequency that the first node is assigned to transmit ~~the second request signal~~.

240. (Previously Presented) The communication controller of claim 231, wherein at least one of the nodes includes a pressure sensitive writing pad for entering the data into the node.

241. (Previously Presented) The communication controller of claim 231, wherein at least one of the nodes includes an alphanumeric graphic display for displaying the data as entered into the node.

242-248. (Cancelled)

249. (Previously Presented) A first network node in a data network, the data network including a communication controller and a plurality of nodes, the first network node comprising:

a processor;

a memory; and

at least one interface for communicating with the communication controller,

wherein the interface is configured to receive a first signal from the communication controller, the first signal including information relating to at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit a first request signal to the communication controller;

wherein the memory stores code to cause the processor to provide a first request signal for transmission through the interface to the communication controller in response to the first signal, said first request signal including a request to transmit a second request signal for transmitting data from the first network node to the communication controller;

wherein the interface is further configured to receive a second signal from the communication controller in response to the first request signal, said second signal allocating at least one timeslot to the first network node for transmitting a second request signal for transmitting data from the first network node to the communication controller;

wherein the memory stores code to cause the processor to provide for transmission of the second request signal in response to the second signal;

wherein the interface is further configured to receive a third signal from the communication controller in response to the second request signal, said third signal



allocating at least one timeslot to the first node for transmitting data to the communication controller; and

wherein the memory stores code to cause the processor to provide for transmission of the data in response to the third signal.

250. (Previously Presented) The first network node of claim 249, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit as identified by the first signal can be assigned to another one of the nodes in the network so that the first request signal transmitted from the first node may be in contention for the at least one timeslot with another one of the nodes.

251. (Previously Presented) The first network node of claim 250, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit as identified by the second signal is assigned exclusively to the first node by the communication controller.

252. (Previously Presented) The first network node of claim 249, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit the first request signal is at least one of a series of timeslots provided on a common channel where the network nodes can transmit random access requests, the series of timeslots occurring repeatedly after transmission of the first signal from the communication controller and continuing without being disabled during operation of the communication controller.

253. (Previously Presented) The first network node of claim 252, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit the second request signal is at least one of a series of timeslots provided on a dedicated channel where the network nodes transmit requests in exclusively assigned timeslots, the series of timeslots occurring repeatedly after transmission of the second signal from the communication controller and continuing without being disabled during operation of the communication controller.

254. (Previously Presented) The first network node of claim 249, wherein the second request signal requests allocation of time for transmitting a specified amount of data from the first node to the communication controller.

255. (Previously Presented) The first network node of claim 249, wherein the first signal includes information relating to a specific timeslot in which the first node may transmit a first request signal to the communication controller.

256. (Currently Amended) The first network node of claim 249, wherein the first node receives information transmitted from the communication controller related to a frequency the first node is assigned to transmit the second request signal to the communication controller.

257. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~256~~ 243, wherein the first node receives information transmitted from the communication controller related to a channel within the frequency that the first node is assigned to transmit the second request signal.

258. (Previously Presented) The first network node of claim 249, wherein at least one of the nodes includes a pressure sensitive writing pad for entering the data into the node.

259. (Previously Presented) The first network node of claim 249, wherein at least one of the nodes includes an alphanumeric graphic display for displaying the data as entered into the node.

260-266. (Cancelled)

267. (Previously Presented) A method of communicating data comprising:

receiving a first signal transmitted from a communication controller at a first network node, the first signal including information relating to at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit a first request signal to the communication controller;

transmitting from the first node a first request signal including a request to transmit a second request signal for transmitting data from the first network node to the communication controller;

receiving a second signal from the communication controller transmitted to the first node in response to the first request signal, said second signal allocating at least one timeslot to the first network node for transmitting a second request signal to transmit the data to the communication controller;

transmitting the second request signal from the first node to the communication controller in response to the second signal;

receiving a third signal from the communication controller transmitted to the first network node in response to the second request signal, said third signal allocating at least one timeslot to the first network node for transmitting the data to the communication controller; and

transmitting the data from the first network node to the communication controller in response to the third signal.

268. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 267, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit as identified by the first signal can be assigned to another one of the nodes in the network so that the first request signal transmitted from the first node may be in contention for the at least one timeslot with another one of the nodes.

269. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 268, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit as identified by the second signal is assigned exclusively to the first node by the communication controller.

270. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 267, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit the first request signal is at least one of a series of timeslots provided on a common channel where the network nodes can transmit random access requests, the series of timeslots occurring repeatedly after transmission of the first signal from the communication controller and continuing without being disabled during operation of the communication controller.

271. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 270, wherein the at least one timeslot in which the first node may transmit the second request signal is at least one of a series of timeslots provided on a dedicated channel where the network nodes transmit requests in exclusively assigned timeslots, the series of timeslots occurring repeatedly after transmission of the second signal from the communication controller and continuing without being disabled during operation of the communication controller.

272. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 267, wherein the second request signal requests allocation of time for transmitting a specified amount of data from the first node to the communication controller.

273. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 267, wherein the first signal includes information relating to a specific timeslot in which the first node may transmit a first request signal to the communication controller.

274. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 267, wherein the first node receives information transmitted from the communication controller related to a frequency the first node is assigned to transmit the second request signal to the communication controller.

275. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 274 ~~267~~, wherein the first node receives information transmitted from the communication controller related to a channel within the frequency that the first node is assigned to transmit ~~the second request signal~~.

276. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 267, wherein at least one of the nodes includes a pressure sensitive writing pad for entering the data into the node.

277. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 267, wherein at least one of the nodes includes an alphanumeric graphic display for displaying the data as entered into the node.